

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (New) A method for monitoring the use of different multicast services, said multicast services provided by at least one content server as one multicast group for each service in a multicast capable access network to which users of the multicast services are connected through network devices, wherein the network devices comprise several ports and all users are connected to different ports, comprising the steps of:

periodically retrieving directly from each network device, by a monitoring device that is not integrated in the multicast system, information identifying which multicast groups are being forwarded through which ports in the network devices;

storing the information retrieved; and,

evaluating the information to achieve a measure of the use of the different multicast services.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the access network is an Ethernet access network.

10. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of periodically retrieving comprises using different paths than the multicast services use in the network for the retrieving of said information from the network devices.

11. (New) A monitoring device connected to a multicast capable access network for monitoring the use of different multicast services which are provided by at least one content server as one multicast group for each service in the access network to which users of the multicast services are connected through network devices, wherein the network devices comprise several ports and all users are connected to different ports, and wherein it is not integrated as a part in the multicast system, comprising:

retrieving means adapted to periodically retrieve, directly from the network devices, information about which multicast groups are being forwarded through which ports in the network devices; and,

storing means connected to the retrieving means and adapted to store the information.

12. (New) The monitoring device according to claim 11, further comprising an evaluating means connected to said storing means, said evaluating means adapted to evaluate said information to achieve a measure of the use of the different multicast services.

13. (New) The monitoring device according to claim 11, further comprising a timer connected to the retrieving means, said timer adapted to periodically indicate to the retrieving means that it is time to retrieve the information from the network devices.

14. (New) The monitoring device according to claim 11, wherein it is adapted to be connected to an Ethernet access network.

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